

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|              |   |                      |                  |      |
|--------------|---|----------------------|------------------|------|
| Appl. No.    | : | 10/527,138           | Confirmation No. | 9514 |
| Applicants   | : | Friedrich Ackermann  |                  |      |
| Filed        | : | March, 8, 2005       |                  |      |
| TC/A.U.      | : | 2416                 |                  |      |
| Examiner     | : | Jeffrey M. Rutkowski |                  |      |
| Docket No.   | : | ROCHE-P0080          |                  |      |
| Customer No. | : | 63049                |                  |      |

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Examiner Rutkowski:

In response to the Office Action of May 13, 2009, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper. **Amendments to the Claims:**

1-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A method for determining the topology of modules in a modular analytical system comprising:

- a) contacting several modules with a central unit, which store data wherein each module stores module identification information in a memory, and with a central unit, wherein at least two modules are connected in series,
- b) transmitting the stored ~~data~~ module identification information of the modules that are directly or indirectly contacted with the central unit to the central unit,
- c) interrupting a contact of a module to the central unit upon receiving a command from the central unit,